

**Italy's PM Berlusconi demands apology from wife seeking divorce** **WORLD/A24**

**Pacquiao fight deadly for three men across country** **ACROSS/A16**

**People's Champ honored with Nat'l Day of Celebration on Friday** **NEWS/A18**

**Palace holds Mass for Cory in Palace**

By TJ Burgolio

IN A MOVE SEEN TO EASE STRAINED relations, a Mass of thanksgiving for the successful surgery on the ailing former President Corason Aquino was held yesterday in Malacañang.

The Aquino family said Mr Aquino may PALACE 44

# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS. FEARLESS.



**THE FISTS THAT STUNNED THE WORLD** From Las Vegas, the boxing legend drops to knockout his opponent in old neighborhood of Van Nuys, Hollywood, Los Angeles, where the Wild Card Gym is located and where the fighters are all raised here. (AP Wirephoto)

**Pacquiao told: Stay out of politics or get kayoed**

By Christine V. Esguerra, Christine G. Arcand and Kristine L. Alave

**KEEP OUT OF POLITICS.** YOU may be immune to the ring but in the political arena, you may end up like Rocky Marciano—cold and senseless on the canvas.

Malacanan yesterday cautioned Manny Pacquiao, who ran for Congress but lost in 2007, against returning to politics.

"He is being idolized because he is one very good boxer—a tough one—but we don't know if he would be just as tough as a politician," Cabinet Secretary Giovanni Sallo El said in a press briefing.

"That might be the time when he would be knocked out," Ello said. Pacquiao "should think about it a thousand times before he makes a decision about entering politics."

"When it comes to boxing, we have no worries for him but if he enters politics, he's a greenhorn," Ello said. "Every Filipino would have to see the day when he is knocked out (in the political arena)."

Still in his prime as a boxer, Pacquiao has all the time to focus on politics once his boxing career is over, Ello said, suggesting Pacquiao first take care of the flashy American Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Senators, too, are not too keen about Pacquiao being a politician. They either want him to remain as a boxer or try an

INQUIRER A19

# P25-M reward on political slays

**Solons asked to raise funds from their pork barrel**

By TJ Burgolio and Terna Quinsanda

A P25-MILLION FUND to end political killings has been ordered put up by President Macapagal-Arroyo, who also called on lawmakers to use part of their pork barrel to help raise the amount.

In a statement issued yesterday from abroad, the President said the fund would finance a reward system for informants who could lead to such killings or lead to the arrest of murderers, in order to achieve a "violence-free political culture" and end fear.

"Political violence has been a scourge of Philippine politics long before our administration. We want to erase the legacy of political violence that has haunted our nation for generations," Macapagal said.

"I invite lawmakers to contribute P25,000,000 each from their CDF (Countrywide Development Fund) to build this fund," she said.

The President is expected to fly back to Manila today from her working visit to Egypt and state visit to Syria.

For the past two years, the Arroyo administration has been under fire from local and international rights watchdogs over the killing of activists and journalists.

In a final report on the human rights situation in late 2007, UN special rapporteur Philip Alston concluded that the military had killed before actions as part of

P25-M REWARD-A4



**IN THIS CORNER** Two men wear their true colors even in the men's rooms of the MGM Grand Hotel Arena in Las Vegas before the Battle of East vs West on Sunday.

AP Wirephoto/CONCEPCION

**Palace in tune with Nievera's National Anthem**

By TJ Burgolio and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

**FARLEY IN HARMONY.** MALACANAN and two cabinet secretaries yesterday spoke in tune—and it's in defense of Mar Nivera's revolutionary rendition of the National Anthem at the opening of Sunday's Pacquiao-Hatten bout in

Las Vegas.

"There's a saying that if you ask 50 artists or singers to sing a song, you will see 50 different versions of the song," Cabinet Secretary Silvestre Balle II said, adding that artists like Nivera should be allowed "voice freedom in their expression."

Balle, who said he actually missed the fight, added that Nivera's singing may have even provided the "lucky charm" that powered Manny Pacquiao into knocking out Britain's Ricky Hatten in two rounds.

Alayon Rep. Risa Hontela

PALACE A18



**Ad sparks talk: MVP for president**

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

**SEN. ROLANDO TADAO** SA 2010? (Is he himself running in 2010?)

The "Ninoy Ninoy" (I myself) Advertiser's campaign, launched with a bang during the television broadcast of the Manny Pacquiao-Ricky Hatten fight on Sunday, has sparked talk that businessman Rolando T. Tadiao is going to be the CEO of

the Philippines.

The shock black-and-white ad that featured scenes of the country's leading businessmen by Smart Foundation was meant to give Pangilinan a platform should he decide to throw his hat in the political ring, said a businessman close to the politician.

"If given the chance and if there is a possibility of winning, MVP will run for president,"

the businessman said.

Another businessman source said that a lot of Pangilinan's close friends had been urging him to make a shot at what was expected to be a crowded field of 2000 presidential hopefuls and that the businessman was seriously considering this as an option.

However, Pangilinan said that while he believed in Abo Mosen's advocacy, he was not an

ADVERTISER A5

**Scientists on flu watch before producing vaccine**

WASHINGTON—SCIENTISTS are watching how the avian flu virus evolves in the Southern Hemisphere, where flu season has started, before mass producing a vaccine against the virus, a US health official said on Monday.

"We'll be working very closely with the international community to understand what happens in this virus in the coming months as the season begins in the southern hemisphere," said Richard Besser, acting director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"That will tell us a lot about whether the virus is changing, whether it's becoming more or

SCIENTIST A19



**DESIGNED BY FENG SHUI** The new owner of Manila Hotel took down three antique brass chandeliers gracing the lobby 12 years ago and replaced them with five new ones as dictated by a feng shui expert. (AP Wirephoto)

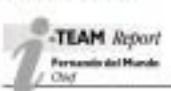
**BAD TIMES FOR GRAND DAME Unpaid Manila Hotel loans soar to P17B**

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

(Special stories)

**BILLIONAIRE BELLO T. SNO** may have to surrender over three-fourths of his wealth to pay off capital loans of P180 million incurred by Manila Hotel that have ballooned to a mind-boggling P17 billion under his watch.

The loans were extended by the Government Service Insurance System to the hotel that the ORS had owned and managed as a separate corporation and before ownership changed



Since last year, Pamela Espinoza, Gil's chief legal counsel, has been pushing to take the company, but her boss, Winston Garcia, general manager of the state pension fund, wasn't about ready to tangle with one of the country's leading tycoons.

"We have a strong case, we

INQUIRER A11

**Duped Pinoy drivers owe P1.9M each**

By Philip C. Tabasa

**WOULD YOU BELIEVE** JUST P1.9 million to average through garbage in Dubai?

The Filipino drivers who ended up as strangers in Dubai after being stranded there for three months each owed some P1.9 million to various lending companies, their lawyers said yesterday.

Lawyer Reynaldo Robles and Susan Oyle, head of the Blas E. Oyle Policy Center that is helping the workers, called on the Philippine Overseas Employment

DUPED A11







# RP ill—you can make difference, Puno tells doctors

Q1817 J20783 8870403 PUNO IS taking the "social heart" campaign to the medical profession, reminding the necessary to a sick person seeking immediate medical attention.

"In case I'm, we will extend our

cases, but in a society where the medical, the greatest obstacle is the act of attending, the act of doing nothing when something is in your hands to make a difference," Puno said in a speech before the Philip-

pine College of Physicians.

"The country is sick, in the doctor's" he said.

Puno said "social diseases" was greatly endangering the country and its institutions, "endanger-

ing its stability, threatening its security, preventing its development, and making good governance very difficult, if not impossible."

He told his audience of doctors that they should also deal with social issues, not just physical ailments.

"As doctors, your duty is not only to heal the physically sick but, in addition to this, you have the additional duty to split the society if forced, the responsibility to raise up the spiritual person in our society," he said.

The medical profession being a public service, Puno said doctors were "perfectly positioned to practice effective, opposing and ethical leadership."

Doctors deal with the patients and the problems of our society and they cannot avoid the social spotlight, he said. In January, with a congressional threat to impeach him over the alleged rape allegations of a Supreme Court Justice, he issued a historic clinical resignation measure, thus giving a series of

speeches on the need for a "social heart" to reflect the destiny of the country.

His call was taken up by various groups and was quickly transformed into a so-called Medical Peace Movement to choose "exceptional" leaders" starting with the 2010 elections. These close eight highly respected individuals "to make up the movement's new group and help come up with a criteria for voters to whom close to 200,000, those provisions down to the local officials."

—Norman Borlaug

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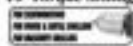
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# Palace in tune with Nievera's National Anthem

From page A1

from-foreigner and Nievera, whose version of "Lupang Hinirang" drew \$46 from the National Historical Institute (NHI), was only being "artistic and creative" in his singing version.

"I don't think singing 301 made millions of Philippine pesos automatically or passively. It was very artistic and was not in any way disrespectful of our national dignity," Rompobal said.

## Amend Flag Law

Sen. Raulo Rep. Theodore Guio called for the revision of the Flag and Heraldic Code Republic Act No. 8493 to allow a certain degree of artistic license.

"I think inconsiderate is to make us as we as previous artists who interpret the anthem as despite the flag officially without denigrating from national symbols," said Guio, who submitted his proposal to the House committee on the revision of laws.

Nievera barely altered the anthem's original marching beat by starting at a slow tempo and ending on a sustained high note. His version immediately drew criticism from some disapproving viewers, that the creative spilling from the lyrics.

Reached for comment on Monday, NHI Chair Amelinda Chingao explained that the act was "not an endorsement of music open to free in



**SHOWTUNE BLUES** There's an empty back and forth on the ground and out of how Martin Nievera sang the National Anthem. The National Historical Institute has proposed his new version of "Lupang Hinirang" as "unacceptable."

Not only was Nievera's version more popular to the NHI, but the display of the NHI flag carried over into the act.

authorized by the Institute, Commission.

Nievera on Monday defended his style and said he had nothing to apologize for.

**'Not be more progressive'**

It is not a singer, the singer said, to "try to imitate a version—what was all I tried to do is sing it like it was the last song I would ever sing. I wanted to make my own version and I believed that I could contribute to the institution house by following the song properly, that my job—learned."

At the weekly House hearing, Nievera, who appeared to be in a good mood, said he was not willing to fight his version for the "Patriot" label. Nievera said:

"Unless the NHI is very strong about it, we should accept the fact that Nievera could have been Nievera's last version. In case of 12 months, the right would be two months. So we should be more progressive in our consideration," Nievera said.

"Although we really have to recognize the simplicity of our National Anthem, we should not rush judgment on our artist," the Cabinet secretary said.

"We should give the benefit of the doubt to the last (last) of the Nievera. I am sure that when he sang it, it was in a way he thought would give honor to our country."

# Pacman on Time's roster of heroes

By Vincent Carandang

Inquirer Kantoan Bureau

HE IS JUST ONE OF THE MANY WITH A BIG name of Time but also a man up there in a world where only a few men are known.

In its May 11 issue, Time Magazine chose Manny Pacquiao among the 100 most influential people in the world, placing him in its "Heroes and Icons" category of people who inspire.

The list includes the world's top political leaders and statesmen, business leaders and scientists and entertainers, and education and children.

Also on the list are US President Barack Obama, Sen. Edward Kennedy, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Clinton's Vice President, Joe Biden.

Together with Pacquiao in the "Heroes and Icons" category were American First Lady Michelle Obama, golf king Tiger Woods and Spanish tennis star Rafael Nadal.

Pacquiao was also among 11 most influential Asians on the list.

Other Asians were China's Xi Jinping, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qisheng, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, Chinese politician Liang Jing, Japanese physicist and Nobel Prize winner Yukio Hara, Pakistan Army chief of Staff Asim Bhatti, Indian cricket captain V.V. Kohli, and Canadian artist Justin Bieber.

## FP President on day

The FP will

be a three-page spread on Pacquiao that he won't be the most famous boxer in the world, but the most famous Filipino boxer.

Senator Manny Pacquiao's win on the Philippine to civil rights fighter Helen Mead's influence in South Africa.

"Manny had connected with the people of his home country the Philippines, to the point where he's almost like a god," Loren said.

## A better world

Time magazine editor Rick Stangor said that "Time" is not a list of the most powerful people in the world. It is a list of the most powerful people of the world.

The list rather includes people who are using their ideas, values, actions and influence to have an effect on a multitude of people, Stangor said. He said they looked for people and innovators who were changing the world for the better. With a report from Inquirer Kantoan Bureau.

# Friday is Manny Pacquiao Day

By Christian Esguerra

MAKE YOUR GREENBAR. THIS COMING Friday is known as "Manny Day."

But the day will not be a holiday. Cabinet Secretary Giovanni Salls III announced.

President Manzanillo-Nievera yesterday declared May 8 a "national day of celebration in honor of Pacquiao for his inspiring leadership."

But the day will not be a holiday. Cabinet Secretary Giovanni Salls III announced.

In Proclamation No. 1764, Mr. Arroyo said the declaration was the "nation's expression of gratitude (to Pacquiao) for his inspiring leadership in the country."

## Best in Filipino

"The spirit of the nation is the best in the Philippines and the best in the world," said the declaration. "The spirit of the nation is the best in the Philippines and the best in the world."

Bills said a massive nationwide day being organized for Pacquiao's homecoming on Friday, but the official day was being coordinated by Environment Secretary Loren Alunan, a former in the boxer's hometown.

Bills agreed that politicians would spend time at the opportunity to be seen as close to Pacquiao and ride on his popularity.

"I can give them a piece of advice, although I am sure they won't. But my advice, let him enjoy his celebrity status because he won't be one who stopped (and) the ring on only he should benefit from the glory," Bills said.

Pacquiao's spectacular two-round victory over Hearn brought to the number of people drawn into his home in his hometown, including the home of his first professional boxing opponent, the boxer's hometown.

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# Solon's driver in trouble for switching '8' car plate

## Tells HPG he did it to avoid traffic, travel faster

By Tere V. Quinsada

THE DRIVER OF A CONGRESSWOMAN YESTERDAY attached a No. 8 license plate to a pick-up truck, thinking it would help him travel faster on Edsa.

Indeed, that thought seemed wrong in Camp Crame as he tried to convince authorities that the license plate was not a fake.

Members of the Highway Patrol Group (HPG) of the Philippine National Police were on maneuvers the southbound lane of Edsa yesterday morning, looking for private vehicles violating the "no plate, no road" policy when they spotted a gray Mitsubishi Pajero with a No. 8 plate.

They flagged down the driver after they noticed that the 8-year plate didn't match the vehicle.

### Original license plate

The pick-up truck was then impounded at Camp Crame where a check showed that its original license plate was UEM 261 and that it was registered to a truck firm based in Quezon City.

It later turned out that the vehicle belonged to Roman Ray Hermosillo, known as "Ray Dimpot," her driver, that Dimpot, her driver, had switched to license plate with that of another vehicle.

"I could no longer pass Manila free traffic as I attached the 8-year plate so that I could travel faster because traffic is heavy," Dimpot, who was on his way to Manila City when he was stopped by HPG agents, said.

The No. 8 license plate is issued to members of the House of Representatives. Each congressman is issued two sets of

plates—a green license plate which is for the lawmaker's use, and a blue one which can be used by his aide.

### Written authority

Under the law, the plates can only be transferred to other vehicles without a lawmaker's written authority and Dept. of Justice Bureau, spokesperson of the PNP HPG.

When the highway patrol agents asked Dimpot for a written authority to use the plate, he could not present one.

However, several hours later, he was allowed to go without charges being filed against him after a PNP-HPG official talked to Roman and confirmed that the vehicle belonged to him. The pick-up truck was also released.

### Verification needed

"Since everything was verified, I (pick-up truck) was released," Dimpot's lawyer (a man okay) — he just had to verify" Chief Supt. Orlando Malones, HPG chief, said.

The PNP-HPG, however, was holding on to another one, a black 2002 Jeepster with a No. 8 license plate, whose driver was flagged down last week.

Highway policemen recently stopped up these efforts to attach illegal uses of the No. 8 plate after receiving complaints from lawmakers themselves about unauthorized users, Roman said.

# Construction worker declared 'dead,' lives

A 37-YEAR-OLD CONSTRUCTION worker miraculously came back to life preserving measures after a doctor had pronounced him dead.

Romanico Ortega, a carpenter from Marikina City who was working for Euphrat Construction Co., was killed by a member of the University of Science, Bataan Hospital in Marikina, Manila, at around 4 a.m. yesterday after he accidentally crushed a live wire at his construction site.

The surviving physician, Dr. Clinton Laguarda, tried to revive him but when he did not respond, he pronounced him dead.

However, after a few minutes, the victim showed signs of life,

prompting the doctor to continue efforts to resuscitate him. In press time, Ortega remains in critical condition at the hospital where he is being treated by nurses.

SPOC Division Captain of the Manila Police Director's Bureau Station 4 said the victim was working as the construction site at 1200 Legarda St. in Marikina when the dead live wire suddenly came into contact with a live wire.

Sagun said that Sgt. Nick Dela Cruz, the station's coordinator, saw the accident and immediately rushed him to the nearest hospital.

Quinsada Leo M. Esguerra

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# The World

## North Korea accuses US of plotting war

SEOUL—NORTH KOREA'S STATE NEWS Agency Tuesday said it would not give up its nuclear weapons program and accused the United States of working to set a trap to attack the communist country.

The Korean peninsula is "on the brink of war because of a new war scheme by US hostile forces," the North's ruling party newspaper *Workers News* said in an editorial.

It estimated a provoker by Pyongyang is intent on provoking, saying the US has been working on some "hostile war schemes for aggression."

AP

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**Q: Why do women lose their hair?**

**A:** Hair loss can be genetic, hormonal imbalance, stress, pregnancy, certain medications or body disorders.

**Q: What are the hair loss symptoms?**

**A:** Severe itching or itchy scalp, hair fall and thinning could be warning signs of advanced female hair loss. Before it's too late, get professional help.

**Q: What is Symson?**

**A:** Symson is a hair loss center that helps women to recover their hair. For more than two decades in the Philippines, Symson has proven its unmatched hair loss expertise.

**Q: How can Symson help women recover their hair?**

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**Q: What's the difference of Symson from over-the-counter remedies?**

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the hair treatments. From falling hair to deadfall to severe thinning, the center has years of experience to help you save your hair and regain thicker, more lush hair strands.

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**NEPALES** police officials clash with anti-war protesters as they attempt to stage a protest in the Kathmandu area. The Nepalese capital is divided by a wave of Maoist demonstrations after a bitter standoff with the national army forced the anti-war leader to resign as prime minister.



## Nepal plunges into turmoil after Maoists quit gov't

KATHMANDU—NEPALES MAOISTS VOWED ON TUESDAY TO bring thousands of protesters onto the streets of the capital after a bitter standoff with the Army chief forced their leader to resign as prime minister.

The collapse of the ultra-leftist administration after just eight months in office leaves the once-torn country without an effective government, and deepens a 2006 pact that had ended a decade of civil war.

Prime Minister Prachanda announced on Monday he was stepping down to prevent his decision to sack the head of Nepal's Army a longtime rival, was endorsed by President Bham Bahadur, a member of the main opposition Nepal Congress party.

Prachanda, who led a bitter insurgency in the signing up for peace and pushing through the abolition of Nepal's Hindu monarchy, accused the president of being "unconstitutional" and undermining the peace process.

The supporters raised a campaign of civil disobedience.

"We are planning protest to different parts of the Kathmandu valley on Tuesday afternoon," said Uma Dulal, secretary of the Maoist-based youth wing, the Young Communist League.

"We will launch regular protests until the president takes back his decision," the anti-Maoist spokesperson. "Initially there will be no need to let any 'peace organizations' but we intend to join the protest, including in the national parliament, unless the president apologizes." The Maoists said to sack the Army chief, Gen. Bishnu Prasad Sharma, for refusing to surrender 19,000 former Maoist fighters—currently confined in United Nations-operated camps—into the regular Army as stipulated by the peace accord.

The Army views the guerrilla as militarily untrustworthy, and also accuses the Maoists of not fulfilling commitments to dismantle the paramilitary structure of their armed push wing.

Prachanda, however, has long argued that the dispute is merely part of a wider campaign to undermine his democratically-elected government, which was formed after the country ended a conflict with Maoist rebels last year.

## Italy's Berlusconi demands apology from his wife

ROME—A FURIED PRIME MINISTER Silvio Berlusconi has demanded a public apology from his wife, who announced she was seeking a divorce from the Italian media magnate because she was fed up with his rising eye for younger women.

Using an Italian newspaper, the 72-year-old, perennially married politician, who in recent years has had his marriage and civil wedding annulled three times, approved more than one woman he married public than his longstanding first wife.

Berlusconi will issue his public apology to his wife and I don't know if that will be enough," the Corbis said in Rome daily on Monday.



ITALIAN Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi (right), and his wife Veronica Lario.

quipped Berlusconi on saying in a long chat with his editor-in-chief.

Veronica Lario, a 32-year-old former actress, married Berlusconi after the end of a divorce from her husband just a week after pub-

licly setting her eyes over Berlusconi's daughter, Stefania.

When Corbis asked her about the possibility of pushing up the couple's nearly 30-year-long relationship, the former replied: "I don't believe so. I don't know if I want to live like this."

The couple, who met in a backstage dressing room in 2000 after the late-actor Berlusconi won Lario's heart in a Milan house, have been married since 1996 and have three young children.

But the two have lived largely separate lives for many years—only to do when Berlusconi was second vice president, spokeswoman and vice president serving in Milan, San Marino and abroad.

## Survey: French excel at eating, sleeping

PARIS—THE FRENCH ARE living up to their image as lovers of food and now add a new love—their sleep, according to a survey released on Monday. In fact, the French excel at the top leisure activities, spending more time at table and in bed than many other nations.

The Eurobarometer Organization for the European Commission and Development looked at the use of leisure time among 38 of its 38 member countries.

Norwegian spent the most time at leisure, just over a quarter of their day, while

the low end, Mexicans spend just 14 percent of their time eating and sleeping.

The French still rank in the sleeping and eating groups, spending on average nearly one hour a day in bed. For the French, leisure continues in the evening hours, with more than two hours a day spent eating and drinking—mostly at the table at restaurants, according to the survey.

American also like their sleep, spending more 8.5 hours a day doing just that.

Despite the modern

amount of time Americans spend eating and sleeping, about an hour and a quarter—25 percent of their day, according to the 2006 survey—25 percent of the American population with a daily breakfast, or 30 percent, over the critical 30 minutes of their day.

The survey also found that in Japan, where the Japanese eat breakfast, with less than 4 percent of the population with a breakfast.

The survey also found that in the United States, the average person spends 7.8 hours a day with the Japanese eat breakfast.

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# SPORTS

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■ **Yao, Rockets**  
steal Game 1  
/A27

## Killer blow was well rehearsed

By Ray Loria

**HOLLYWOOD—IT'S EASY TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE** Munty Pasquiao-Freddie Roach partnership is a re-sounding success.

They had enough about it can't sleep a night, the pugilist questions the workings and makes suggestions. Then they talk, analyze and find out the best move.

This has two-faced destruction of Ricky Fatas on Saturday, Thursday in

Manila.

While it was Pasquiao and Michael Umur who spent countless hours watching tapes of Fatas's previous fights and plan out the strategy, Pasquiao seemed to believe he had the edge.

Like those, Pasquiao immersed in his own actions and reactions, the title fight and memories that could be replaced with fight night at the MGM Grand Am-

to in Las Vegas.

"I carefully studied Fatas's style," said Pasquiao in Filipino when he visited MGM Grand. "I saw in (Filipino) boxing training. The moment I let him with that left hook, I felt the impact on my elbow."

Despite of the fight dubbed "The Battle of Asia and West" showed it was no odd, Fatas was successful even he

knocked out the champion in the first round. The boxer's eye rolled and his chest turned of bloodied bandage.

Just one glimpse at the explosive strike may not convince anyone. Pasquiao found no need to count.

Fatas (10-2, 32 knockouts) was knocked out cold for the first time in his 10-year career by Pasquiao, who was 24-0-1 (10 KOs).

## Let's Duo It!

If you live in Manila or Cebu and you're the kind of person for whom a phone is a lifeline, you've got a new reason to be really really happy. The new Duo service from Globe, the first of its kind in the world, is a mobile phone and landline in one.

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"Ang pang-halagapang na! Unlimited calls to any landline from my Globe Duo cellphone and unlimited Duo to Duo calls pa in Metro Manila. I plan to get more Duo phones for my staff!" — Mail Del Rosario

"If I'm on overtime and I want to check on my children at home, the only thing I have to worry about is how am they doing, are they finishing their homework, have they had dinner... I don't worry about how much the call will cost because it's unlimited." — Abby Sta. Ana

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- Lower Meralco billings seen for April /B3
- PSALM to start bidding out Napocor IPP deals /B5

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## BUSINESS

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## Inflation slows down to 4.8% in April

## Bangko Sentral expects further decline

By Michelle Y. Ison

THE INCREASE IN CONSUMER PRICES SLOWED DOWN TO A 16-month low of 4.8 percent in April, the National Statistics Office reported yesterday.

The increase in April brought the average inflation rate for the first four months of the year to 5.4 percent, which monetary officials expect to further decline in the coming months.

In growth in several sectors is slowing down, economists said any increase in demand for goods was also being tempered.

This, in turn, causes inflation to decrease. The Philippine economy, after registering record growth rates of 7.2 and 7.6 percent in 2007 and 2008, is estimated to grow only 3.1 to 3.5 percent this year due to the adverse effects of the global financial crisis. Inflation levels in the United States and Europe, the Philippines' largest export markets, were causing export revenues to drop, pulling down growth of the local economy.

INFLATION BY



## Stocks surge 1.8%

LOCAL STOCKS RALLIED BY 1.8 percent yesterday, ending close from the bullish PSE-1000 banking overnight investments across the globe channel further signs that the global economic recovery is gaining momentum.

The main index, Philippine Stock Exchange index, which was in a winning streak for the third trading day, gained 66 points to close at 2,197.30. The relatively resilient first quarter local corporate results and further downward in inflation also boosted confidence in stocks despite the cautious trading on index heavyweight PLDT.

Appetite for equities across the globe surged following a report in the United States of a 3.2 percent increase in January's purchases of privately owned houses, which beat forecasts of two percent. This news sent the S&P 500 1.36 percent higher, reaching its highest since the year.

Global investor confidence also surged as reports that China's manufacturing output increased for the first time in nine months, further boosting hopes that the world may have averted worst of the downturn.

The local stock market rally yesterday was led by the property sector, whose index went up 3.30 percent. The composite for the financial sector, holding firms saw a rise and fell at 0.6 percent, 3.8 percent and 4.2 percent, respectively.

Investors snapped up shares of Maybank, Energy Development, Banco de Oro, Metrobank, Farniland and Ayala Corp.

On the other hand, there was profit taking on PLDT which reported an 8.5 percent year-on-year decline in reported first quarter consolidated income to P18 billion, after a year of P21.1 billion.

There were 100 percent up against 26 declines and 33 unchanged issues. Value of trading was heavy at P2.32 billion.

All Capital Securities said the market also welcomed the decline

BYRON/IS

## PLDT earmarks P47B for capex, 20% Meralco stake

By Davis C. Brundage

LOCAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. plans to spend P47 billion this year for continued capital expansion and the purchase of a 20-percent stake in power retailer Manila Electric Co.

To fund part of its capital expenditures and the Manila acquisition, PLDT plans to raise P15 billion from domestic bond issuances this year, likely through the issuance of bonds, PLDT revenue head Roberto Chan said.

PLDT has set aside a budget of P17 billion for capital spending this year, up by 7 percent from the spending last year. Another P20 billion is needed to consummate an agreement to purchase a 20-percent stake in Manila Electric Co. Long Distance.

The move into the domestic market is an opportunity for the company to increase the productivity of its assets.

Total PLDT group debt stood



FAMKULINAN

at P5.7 billion, of which 72 percent is denominated in US dollars. Half of the dollar debt is covered by hedging instruments. Of total capital outlay for this year, P15.6 billion will be spent to expand its wireless division, P10.2 billion for the fixed-line business and P1 billion for the information, communications and technology business. PLDT president Neptacio Francisco said.

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Editor Theresa Soule-Seymour  
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## Lessons from an expensive first year

By Margarita K. Lavin-Exari  
Lecturer

**L**ONDON—ONE YEAR AND many pounds I live in London! Lame I stare at my year-old son's wardrobe in shock. He has more clothes than I and my husband combined. I realize this has been an expensive year—and it is months of my own doing!

I won't make excuses for my response, but, my mother (I'm sure) will admit that with the signal of baby products out there, it is impossible to waste the newest fashions, latest baby accessories and, in a country where we walk more than we ride, everything in the best possible light.

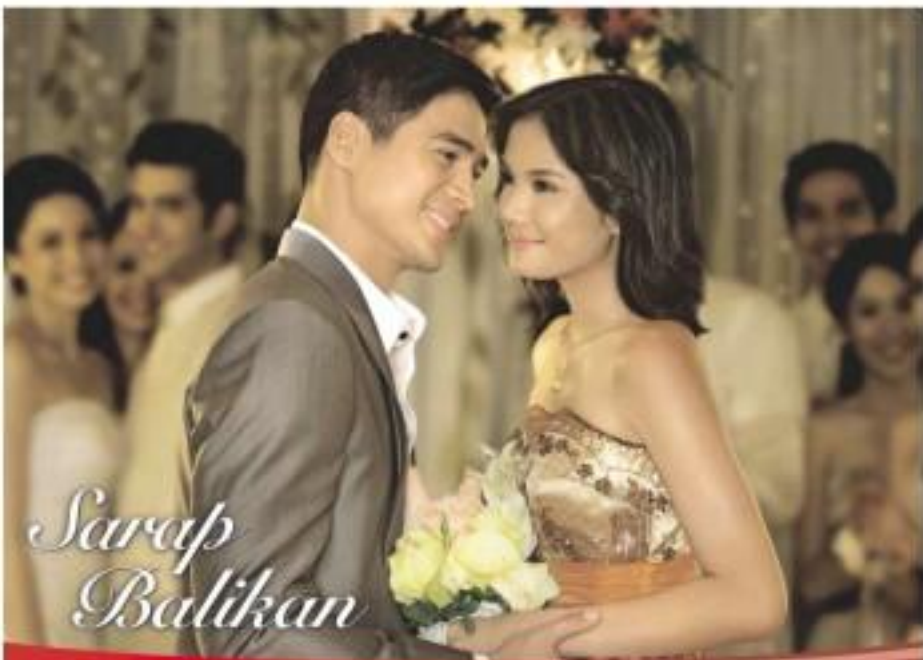
Of course, a significant percentage of my son's things are gifts from generous grandparents, aunts and uncles, but that has only added to my guilt. For as much money as I have wanted, as presents that turned out to be useless or too random, some, they have, with the best of intentions, spent on gifts that my son didn't have or need or outgrowing before they

And as I have decided to move new stuff out, here this wonderful hat by making this. I hope new and young moms will end their first year with more money saved than I did—so that they can run on the tips and reward themselves for all the poop, tears, vomit, sick stools, temper tantrums (the baby's, not mine!) and sweet postpartum depression (yikes) of the early year.

My resolution for my baby's next year is also to buy only as much as I need for two weeks (of course, I can't guarantee that his grandparents will join me in this resolution, but oh well...). Anything more is wasteful.

If you must buy cereal in plain-colored boxes that your baby can change into when he/she gets seriously or mildly ill. If you live in a cold country like I do, have no more than four coats—two light and two heavy. Baby clothes are remarkably easy to wash and dry with modern

Also, only buy meager dog toys you will need to update your baby's wardrobe, because you will know how big your baby will be only closer to the date. My son is being too



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## Lessons from an expensive first year

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## LIFE STYLE

## Do-it-yourself

With Action: Bernabe and Marina Lopez

## DRESSING UP TRASH BINS

## Recycle and Reuse



WE USED a twisted leather bag to dress up this trash bin. The string and small flower are on each side so we could trim. The bag is a good look at the trash bin.

—Bernabe and Lopez



AND a drawing bag that will fit your trash bin. This black one with a white rope was a fit for a bag in a trash bin. It is a good look at the trash bin.

PLEASE old bags and boxes to dress up trash bins.



THIS LEATHER bag with leather rope is a fit for a trash bin. It is a good look at the trash bin.

YOUR GOOD OLD TOTE, sport sacs and other bags can be recycled and turned into jackets for trash bins.

We all have trash bins spread throughout our homes and office spaces, and having them around means they have to look presentable. There are many types of trash bins but the most practical and affordable one usually need to be covered up.

Here is a great way to dress 'em up: Use old bags and ropes to cover them. Start through your closet and find one that still looks good and is the trash bin. If the bag is too long, roll it down or tie it up like a ball around the circumference of the trash bin. Fold and manipulate the bag till it fits to size.

A sports tote would look great in a bedroom. If you find a floral bag, you might be able to use it to decorate your powder room. Take home board laundry bags can be used in the bathroom or laundry area. If you have some leather handbags, they would be great in bedrooms or work areas. If they happen to be branded, you might not have the problem of finding a hiding place for your trash bin.



## Bonsai takes center stage in Rosales

By Gabriel Cardenas  
Inquirer News Bureau

ROSAL, PANGLOSS—In the crowded eyes, the place of wood. The Bonsai festival, which was held in the newly opened Pangloss Hotel in the northern part of Luzon would have been looking for trash and may have ended up in Rosales.

But to Magalona, who was only two to three years old in Rosales, that place of wood—a bonsai—would make a good home.

He was right. The wood eventually arrived in gradually growing into a beautiful and elegant dwarf tree, showing him the good price in the recent North Borneo Exhibition of the Pangloss Hotel Rosales.

"When I saw it three years ago, I immediately knew what to do with it," Magalona said.

And for seven years, he nurtured the plant—watering, misting and beautifying it, following its every branch and making care of its life.

"Bonsai taking requires a lot of

patience and imagination," Magalona said. One also has to have an "artistic mind," he said.

"Maybe if somebody else put this wood, it wouldn't be what it is today," he added.

Magalona's winning bonsai is a 90-cm. modern European type of tree, in contrast to the traditional Japanese style, which is like a perfect tree.

"It's 50 to 60 years old in the wild," Magalona said.

He said the designer (Magalona himself) wanted to create the most beautiful among all the trees around the world. In fact, in his bonsai garden in Unibersa City, 95 percent of his more than 50 bonsai are Japanese.

"Bonsai is very hardy. Hardly to the point that it is not resistant. It does not easily die. You can put it, or you can remove some roots, it's just OK. It is stable," he said.

In the 1970s, 50, a former grower from Cebu, Cebu, who had dropped by a local dropper to see the exhibit, said that made him the most in-demand bonsai

material is his different character.

"Bonsai has been maybe a hundred years to the wild and it's been to develop into a good bonsai. So you can't keep it long after you find it in the wild," Magalona said.

During the selection of the best bonsai in the exhibit, organizers had to see how long and how many branches it had in the competition because of the bulk in the advantage of the tree.

Magalona, an information technology professional, said he was attracted to bonsai growing because he was a nature lover.

"I was content to see a beautiful tree one time. I was in a state of mind. It had a beautiful form, it looked perfect," he said.

One of his regular visitors to the tree was the former president of Michael Monda, president of the Pangloss Hotel Rosales. It was then, he said, when he told Magalona that he would also grow bonsai.

But more than love of nature, Magalona said he was into bonsai because it is relaxing and challenging.

"Let's say you have a new material. It has no branch, no form. The challenge is how to make it live and develop," he said.

"When a nurturer and begins to develop, you will enjoy seeing it every day. You'll have a sense of achievement and you're happy," Magalona said.

Bonsai artist Michael Monda, an architect based in Quezon City, said bonsai has been very useful in architecture, especially in landscaping.

"A bonsai looks like an antique. It's beautiful to see and it's very relaxing," Monda said.

As a collector, he has about 100 dwarf trees. "It's just a plant and a body and some sort of an achievement," he said.

In the wild, he said, bonsai material, like bamboo, are just planted in a forest.

"So in forest growing, you preserve nature. Eventually, you also enhance it," Monda said.

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ALLS Magalona's winning tree was a 90-cm. modern European type of tree.







# Going Italian in Filipino kitchens

By Joyce T. Garcia

**W**HILE ITALIAN RENOWNED AS a place of art and aerial cabarets, furniture and life partners Anthony and Rinae Taborian have chosen to add Filipino kitchens with a note of Italy. The Conception design Mondo Cucina at Serrano, Los Baños, Laguna. Since 2007, they have been the exclusive Filipino distributor for Italian kitchen appliance brand Smeg (Students Manufacturing Italia) Cavallotti, a small manufacturing factory in Cavallotti, Emilia Romagna, Italy.

Based in northern Italy—the same birthplace of luxury retailer Ferrar and Lamborghini—Smeg employs internationally renowned architects to design their appliances, which includes award-winning designer Rinae Taborian, known for the United People Arts in Palis.

Mondo Cucina offers a modern aesthetic of living spaces, rooms, public, restaurants, clubs, most of which are made of sleek, minimalist modern steel.

"People love living appliances because they are functional pieces of art," Anthony says. Mondo Cucina has found this a winning formula among Filipinos, with 90 percent of their walk-in "customers" to the brand.

## Well Italian!

Smeg's clients abroad include Hollywood power couple Brad Pitt—as well as the Philippine. Mondo Cucina hopes to move here in the Philippines.

Anthony says they have already captured the local high-end market. However, like the famed designer in Milan, he has called in, and relies, polished and savvy figures buy the appliances for their vacation homes.

"There is Manila you can't reach, you're too busy, that is summer house, that's where you can find Italian, that's where you want to cook. We've got clients from Paris, France, beach houses, second homes," he says.



**SHOWROOM** at Mondo Cucina, the exclusive distributor of Smeg in the Philippines.



**MONDO** Cucina managers Rinae and Anthony Taborian.

Despite this "prestigious image," he says that the products are mostly priced. He says he has a vision, coming only a third of other brands' prices.

## Culinary culture

After all, living was made for people who love to cook, international business manager Rinae Taborian says.

"We have a culinary culture in Italy. We put together the best products of the kitchenware industry. We really do produce in a way that you will have the best meal possible," he says.

One of Smeg's unique features is the Thermostat system for ovens and grills. The system of appliances makes them completely sealed during cooking, with food well-insulated.

The Conception artist in this, providing what they call the best home.

"We have a living kitchen, and because of its Thermostat technology, it seals in juices and makes really good meals. Most is perfectly grilled and doesn't dry up, the idea is creating the best home," Rinae says.

For the Conception, the Italian brand only serves to boost Filipino values around the dining table—be better at the home.

The reality that there is not a single Italian, it's a wonderful experience," Rinae says.

"My only problem with living is that when I get the dish, I get a 20-ton, a 20-ton. A beautiful Anthony says, 'We will make the best home on our living go.'"

**SUBURBAN** interior from Babilon. The bags, made of recycled cloth, are made and exported to Europe, US and Asia.



**ANGELO**, trained glass-ceramic bottle from Babilon Heritage.

## One-stop home...

From page B1

consumption, including energy-saving LED lights, are available. This includes not the green construction of modernism, small developments in energy, spreading materials on-site.

Based on the outside, the bags are the best of the best. The bags are made of recycled cloth, are made and exported to Europe, US and Asia.

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## Spread the Joy of Bread

Day in and day out, we need all the energy we can get to keep up with our fast-paced lifestyle. While moving around is a matter of instant food options in every corner of the street, we need to be more discerning of the food items we consume. It is not enough that we satisfy our food cravings, but we should also make it a point to satisfy our need for good health. Good thing that nutrition is just a slice of bread away.

With everyone being more health conscious nowadays, bread has become a easy, affordable and practical source of fiber and other essential nutrients for good health.

Bread is high in fiber and a diet that is fiber-rich is integral for a healthy and balanced digestive system. Bread that is high in fiber, like wheat bread, can help decrease problems of the gastrointestinal tract. Consuming bread can prove to be rewarding since each slice of bread can be of great benefit to your health too. One can expect a healthy level to be lowered and blood pressure and glucose levels regulated. Also, wheat-based breads have complex carbohydrates that can be converted into energy, which is why it is an ideal food choice for people on the go.

Also, when we eat fiber-rich food such as bread, we feel fuller faster. Ergo, we do not go overboard with our meals. People with weight issues, opt to snack on whole wheat bread and snack habit significantly results to weight loss. Who would think a simple slice of bread can be instrumental in regaining the way against obesity? It is worthy to note that bread is low in fat and cholesterol.

Eating bread is not an alien idea for a rice-eating nation such as the Philippines. With our common breads that supply "just do it", experiencing the benefits of bread is not at all far-fetched. Filipinos may have all kinds of meals in enjoying their daily bread – buttered, smothered with cheese or some fancy spread, or even dipped in hot dips – we just need to know that bread, as it is, can be good. All we need to do is choose a healthy type of bread available in the market – and one of them would be bread. Many of the available bread products in the market are also fortified with Vitamin A, iron and even folic acid to enrich health benefits in the body.

The bottom line is, bread goes beyond just satisfying a common role in your breakfast special or snack routine. Every bite of that wheat goodness offers the nutrition that you need. So the next time you feel the need to fill your belly, think healthy. Reach out for a slice of bread and fulfill your appetite for a healthy life.



Bread has the fiber that we need

Healthy, fiber-rich breads are essential for good health. They are also a source of energy and a source of fiber. They are also a source of energy and a source of fiber.

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By eating bread, you can enjoy the benefits of fiber and other nutrients that are essential for good health. Bread is a healthy and delicious food that can help you stay healthy and happy.



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### OPENING THIS WEEK



At the Movies

**DIAMONET 4**  
 12:00 PM / 2:00 PM / 4:00 PM / 6:00 PM / 8:00 PM

**DIAMONET 1**  
 1:00 PM / 3:00 PM

**GREENBELT 3**  
 12:00 PM / 2:00 PM / 4:00 PM / 6:00 PM / 8:00 PM

**SLASHING TOWN CENTER**  
 12:00 PM / 2:00 PM / 4:00 PM / 6:00 PM / 8:00 PM

**AYALA CENTER CINO**  
 12:00 PM / 2:00 PM / 4:00 PM / 6:00 PM / 8:00 PM

**MARKETMARKET**  
 12:00 PM / 2:00 PM / 4:00 PM / 6:00 PM / 8:00 PM

**VERONICA**  
 12:00 PM / 2:00 PM / 4:00 PM / 6:00 PM / 8:00 PM

Movie listings are subject to change without notice.  
 For confirmation, please call 938-1111

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Regine...

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## CARFIELD



## BY JIM DAVIS

## LUPIN



## BY ELIA BERRA

## FUGAD BARRY



## BY PHIL JURK

## DICE TRACY



## LOVEKNOTS



## BY ELIZABETH CHINGOLO

## JAMES BOND



## DWARF COMEDY



## BY STEVEN PAGNOULLE

## BART RULES



## BY BRIAN SCOTT

## TULDOOR



## BY BRIAN SCOTT

## NEW



## BY BRIAN SCOTT

## ATOMIC AND WERBY



## BY BRIAN SCOTT

## BIRD MACHINE



## BY BRIAN SCOTT

## MONOSCOPE

## BY MONOSCOPE



## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



## CONCEPTS SUDOKU



## HOW TO PLAY

## SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.  
Tip and program at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

## Answer to previous puzzle

6	3	7	2	4	8	1	9	5
5	9	2	1	7	6	8	3	4
1	4	8	9	5	3	2	6	7
7	2	9	4	1	5	6	8	3
8	5	1	3	6	2	7	4	9
3	6	4	8	9	7	5	1	2
9	6	5	7	3	1	4	2	8
4	1	6	5	2	9	3	7	8
2	7	3	6	8	4	9	5	1

